

LYTTLETON – New Zealand



Lyttelton, Harbour of Christchurch (New Zealand) seen from Space

Lyttelton is the historical harbour as well as present harbour of Christchurch. In the image the street pattern is clearly visible together with many details of the harbour, such as fuel tanks, the container park, ships and the loading installations and even the shadow of the cranes. The dark area to the east is a coal storage waiting for transportation to Japan. Lyttelton is comfortably connected with Christchurch through tunnels, one for cars and one for the train, the latter one is mainly used for the transport of coal from the West Coast. During the pioneer time of the mid 19th century and until 1976 the arriving and exhausted settlers were forced to surmount with all their goods the dangerously steep hill behind Lyttelton in order to reach the town of Christchurch.

Technical information

This image has been acquired specifically for the Satellite Eye project for the arrival of the Galathea 3 expedition in New Zealand. On 10th September 2006 the attempt to catch a clear cloud free view on the harbour was successful. The very small ESA demonstration satellite PROBA weighting only 94kg was launched in 2001 was planned to operate only for one year, but has become a success story lasting for



already more than 5 years. Its Earth imaging payload HRC, a small-scale monochromatic camera, acquire 25km x 25km square images with a spatial resolution of five metres. To date, data from HRC and CHRIS, the other sensor, support the research of about 100 Earth observation projects from nearly 30 countries worldwide. Although not very high resolution, the free availability of the data through such projects makes it a valuable tool for many applications through mapping and monitoring.